

available on modern methods of radiation dosimetry, as the references indicate, the subject is unfortunately covered only sketchily.

It would also be nice to know what the safe dosage is near structures such as the eye, instead of being informed, "Prolonged gamma radiation . . . is likely to lead to permanent damage and should be avoided . . ." Naturally what the radium therapist wants most to know is what is meant by "prolonged radiation."

Chapters on the effects of radium on malignant tumors and on tissue culture and experimental radiology are well done.

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CONTEMPORARY RELIGIOUS JURISPRUDENCE. By T. H. Rubenstein of the Illinois Bar. The Waldain Press, Chicago, 1948. \$2.50.

In the 120 pages of "Contemporary Religious Jurisprudence," I. H. Rubenstein of the Illinois bar attempts to clarify and state the criminal and civil aspects of the major polemical tenets of fortune-telling, faith healing and pacifism.

With candid frankness and honesty the author aptly points out the conflict of these tenets with the public welfare, health, morals and safety of society. With each of the three tenets of fortune-telling, faith healing and pacifism the author gives a brief definition and history, and then explores the criminal and civil aspects with relation to society as a whole.

With the two tenets of fortune-telling and faith healing, the irreconcilable conflict with medical practice acts is pointedly brought out. This is done by the narration of actual cases and experiences which are of record. The fact is made clear that if the advocates of these tenets were allowed to exploit civilization, they would repeal all medical and public health safeguards and expose the nation to the menace of uncontrolled, unguided and unintelligible practice of the healing arts.

In his treatise on all of the three tenets the author points out that "Law, with its consequence in justice, must act as a bulwark of Society against the onslaughts of those who would use religion as a word to gain their fanatical desires and ends."

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STANDARD RADIOGRAPHIC POSITIONS. By Nancy Davies, M.S.R., C.T. Senior Radiographer, Malvern General Hospital, Malvern, and Ursel Isenbarg, M.S.R. Radiographer, Royal Free Hospital, London. Second Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1948. \$6.00.

This text is elementary in nature, and uses only line drawings instead of actual radiographs. Nevertheless, it covers the subject quite well, and should prove to be useful for those who are beginning the study of x-ray technique.

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CONTROL OF PAIN IN CHILDBIRTH—Anesthesia—Analgesia—Amnesia. By Clifford B. Lull, M.D., Director, Division of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit, Pennsylvania Hospital; and Robert A. Hingson, M.D., Associate Professor of Obstetrics; Anesthesiologist, Department of Obstetrics, Johns Hopkins University Hospital; Surgeon, U.S.P.H.S. Introduction by Norris W. Vaux, M.D., Consulting Obstetrician and Gynecologist, Philadelphia Lying-in Unit of Pennsylvania Hospital. Third Edition. Revised and Enlarged. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1948. \$12.00.

This important and extensive survey of obstetric analgesia and anesthesia, now appearing in its third edition within four years, has been reviewed elsewhere on numerous occasions. The first quarter of the volume includes a basic discussion of sacral anatomy and of the innervation of uterus and bladder, contributed by two anatomists from Washington University, as well as a pharmacologic descrip-

tion of all the agents commonly administered during labor and delivery. At the end of Part One there is a brief essay on the psychology of fear during labor, but since this chapter amounts essentially to an advertisement for caudal anesthesia it could well be omitted. Part Two, the largest section, is concerned largely with details of the various techniques for relieving obstetric pain. In this section the book suffers from the fact that the authors have appropriated and reproduced verbatim several articles which have appeared in periodicals, such as the lengthy article on saddle-block anesthesia by Andros and others which was published in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, May 1948, while in other instances subsections have been contributed by quite an array of persons, some of whose names are mentioned briefly in the preface. The result is confusion, repetition, and lack of editorial coherence, not to mention a surfeit of graphs, charts, tables and drawings, many of which have been taken from the brochures of pharmaceutical manufacturers. It appears that this section of the book badly needs rewriting in the language of the authors. Part Three (which is not denoted as such in the table of contents) undertakes to discuss the choice of anesthesia for an extensive array of obstetrical complications and includes a chapter on care of the newborn infant, written by two pediatricians. Some of the material in this chapter seems out of place in a volume on anesthesia. The last 25 pages of the book are given over to reprinting in its entirety an article on newborn mortality which appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association for January 24, 1948. Here again one questions the desirability of including material in this form within the covers of a book. Despite these obvious shortcomings the volume is a real storehouse of information and will continue to be a standard reference in its field.

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SYNOPSIS OF PSYCHOSOMATIC DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT. By Flanders Dunbar, M.D. and others and the members of the staff of the departments of Medicine and Psychiatry Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, New York City. The C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis, Mo., 1948. \$6.50.

The author has compiled a very useful handbook on psychosomatic diagnosis and treatment for the general practitioner. It is exceedingly logical and simple, and a valuable volume for the library of every physician. The introductory chapter defines "Functional Diseases" and brings them within the purview of psychosomatic medicine. Emphasis is placed upon the unknown menace of the psychoneuroses, and indications are given that etiologically these disorders may arise from the tempo of our civilization. It is significant that there is a marked psychosomatic component in hypertension, hyperventilation and hyperthyroidism, and many other diseases, and that the change in the incidence of peptic ulcer and coronary artery disease in the male is in part a resultant of the cultural pressure of society on the individual. The diseases to which an individual may become heir are the results of the interplay of the physical and psychic constitutions. There is an excellent chapter on embryology in its relation to psychosomatic disorders, wherein illness is considered essentially a response, conditioned or unconditioned, to a stimulus acting upon the individual at any moment of his existence. In the chapter on predisposition to psychosomatic dysfunction, the author discusses the mechanism of organ selection as an expression of the preponderant emphasis of the emotions on the soma. Many of these predispositions may be acquired in utero or in early life. There is a fine chapter on the physiology of the autonomic nervous system in which is discussed the effect of psychic impulses on the mechanisms of disorder of the nervous system.

The chapter on the psyche in relation to the gastrointes-